

DESOTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JOHN M. M. CALDWELL, PRESIDENT, PRESIDING

November 20, 1997

A. CALL TO ORDER

The November 20, 1997, meeting of the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors was called to order by W. E. "Sluggo" Davis, Chancery Clerk.

W. E. "Sluggo" Davis, the DeSoto County Chancery Clerk was present and did open the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors meeting in a regular session to hear any and all business to come before the Board. The following were present:

Jessie Medlin-----District 1
Eugene C. Thach-----District 2
James D. Pearson-----District 3, Absent
John Caldwell-----District 4
Tommy Lewis-----District 5
W. E. ASluggo@ Davis-----Chancery Clerk
James Albert Riley-----Sheriff, Absent
Clovis Reed-----County Administrator
William H. Austin, Jr.-----Board Attorney

B. INVOCATION

The invocation was presented by Supervisor John Caldwell, Board President.

C. CIVIC CENTER BOND

Demery Grubbs of Holley, Grubbs, Mitcham & Phillips notified the Board of Supervisors that the Bond issue was published at \$27 Million in connection with the Civic Center project. Mr. Grubbs said he will open the bids and will then verify the bids. Afterward they will look at the additional Bonds that can be added to this Bond issue. They will work on this issue this afternoon and will notify the Board of Supervisors of their recommendation after the bids are reviewed. Mr. Grubbs opened the bids and the bidders were as follows:

<u>Name of Bidder</u>	<u>Signed & Good Faith Check Enclosed</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>
J. C. Bradford & Co.	X	5.170940%
Morgan Keegan	X	5.195051%

Mr. Grubbs said that J. C. Bradford & Co. appears to be the low bidder and further explained that these bids are non-bank eligible due to the amount, therefore, the bid amount is slightly higher than normal.

Item C., Continued,

Don Clark of Crosthwait, Terney, Noble & Allain, Attorneys at Law, said that these funds are being issued through the Mississippi Development Bank. Mr. Clark explained the Bond procedure, including that the Mississippi Development Bank has already approved the documents that they will enter into. Mr. Clark said the Bill has a AAA rating, which is the best on the market today and said if the Board adopts these resolutions in connection with this bid award, that the Mississippi Development Bank would have certain rights, including that the bank could intercept the funds from the County collected through taxation and if the County defaults on the loan and in addition explained several other points relating to the Resolutions. Later in the meeting, Don Clark, notified the Board of Supervisors, that he and Demery Grubbs recommend accepting the bids from J. C. Bradford & Co. and said upon initial review should result in an amount of \$27.850 or \$27.9 Million as an estimated additional revenue. Mr. Grubbs pointed out that initially they were looking at a debt service reserve fund, which allowed a Surety Bond and that money could be freed up to invest with the interest being used and applied for the construction of the project.

Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to approve the low bid from J. C. Bradford & Co., and approve the Resolutions as recommended by Don Clark and Demery Grubbs in connection with the Bonds. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Jessie Medlin	Yes
Eugene Thach	Yes
Jake Pearson	Absent
John Caldwell	Yes
Tommy Lewis	Yes

See Exhibit C.

D. OLD BUSINESS

1. Appointment

This item was held over.

See Exhibit D.1.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Pete Mathison - Clarification of Previous Board Order Concerning Sheriff's Department Aviation Budget

Pete Mathison of the Sheriff's Department Aviation Unit, appeared before the Board of Supervisors to clarify the Board's direction regarding his budget. Mr. Mathison said that at a previous meeting he had requested the money from the sale of the helicopter and the money left in his FY97 Budget to be transferred to his FY98 Budget to be used in connection with capital improvements for the Aviation Unit. Mr. Mathison explained that the original intent of the proceeds of the helicopter were to purchase a search light and install same, purchase flight suits and jackets for Aviation Unit employees and pay for inspections concerning the Aviation department. Mr. Mathison said that in order to accomplish these improvements, he had to save from his FY97 Budget and use these proceeds. Mr. Mathison said that upon inspection, he did not have the same understanding of the Board's direction as

Item E., Continued,

was printed in the minutes. He further explained that he had been late in processing the invoices for these improvements due to a title problem and asked the Board to transfer \$30,997 into his FY98 Budget to cover the cost of same. Mr. Mathison further explained items that were planned for in connection with this money. County Administrator, Clovis Reed, explained the difference between the proceeds from the sale of the helicopter and the unspent funds from the FY97 budget was \$3500 that was left to be transferred into the FY98 Budget in excess of the funds from the helicopter sale. Supervisor Tommy Lewis agreed. County Administrator, Clovis Reed, went through the Budget summary as noted on Exhibit E.1.

Pete Mathison explained that he had saved the money from the budget to cover these expenses and was only able to accomplish these savings by taking advantage of lower expenses during this particular budget year. Therefore, he did not feel he could compensate for these funds in his FY98 Budget. County Administrator, Clovis Reed, suggested meeting with Mr. Mathison later to assure that the budget issues were looked at carefully and Mr. Mathison did not feel dissatisfied in any way with the Board's action. The Board agreed. Later in the meeting, after the County Administrator had spoken with Mr. Mathison during an intermission, the County Administrator recommended moving \$30,997 into the Aviation Budget.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis made the motion and Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion to approve carrying over \$30,997 into the Sheriff's Department Aviation Budget. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Jessie Medlin	Yes
Eugene Thach	Yes
Jake Pearson	Absent
John Caldwell	Yes
Tommy Lewis	Yes

See Exhibit E.1.

2. Fire Service - Request to Advertise for Replacement of two dispatchers

County Administrator Clovis Reed explained that the County Fire Department is in an emergency situation due to one dispatcher who has quit his/her position.

Another employee did not follow through with the resignation process. Business relating to the replacement of the position was handled in the executive session portion of the minutes.

The County Administrator, Clovis Reed, explained that because the Fire and EMS Department operates so efficiently and cost effectively, position openings create an emergency situation every instance in which they occur. The County Administrator suggested the Board of Supervisors either create a source for an application pool or to authorize the employment of a part time position for Fire and EMS to work during times when dispatchers are not available for their positions.

Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to advertise for a part time position for Dispatcher in the Fire Department for 20 hours per week. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Item E.2., Continued,

Jessie Medlin	Yes
Eugene Thach	Yes
Jake Pearson	Absent
John Caldwell	Yes
Tommy Lewis	Yes

See Exhibit E.2.

3. Authorize County Administrator to Open Bids for IBM Upgrade on November 25, 1997 at 10:00 a.m.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis made the motion and Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion to authorize the County Administrator to open bids for IBM Upgrade on November 25, 1997, at 10:00am in connection Bid File #97-152-002. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Jessie Medlin	Yes
Eugene Thach	Yes
Jake Pearson	Absent
John Caldwell	Yes
Tommy Lewis	Yes

In connection with Section 19-3-41 of the Mississippi Code which states that the Board of Supervisors of any county may expend funds to purchase, maintain, and repair equipment for the electronic filing and storage of filings, files, instruments, documents and records using microfilm, microfiche, data processing, magnetic tape, optical discs, computers and electronic process which correctly and legibly stores and reproduces on which forms a medium for storage, copying or reproducing documents, files and records for use by one, all or any combination of county offices, employees and officials whether appointed or elected.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis made the motion and Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion to authorize the County Administrator to open bids for IBM Upgrade on November 25, 1997, at 10:00am in connection Bid File #97-152-002. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Jessie Medlin	Yes
Eugene Thach	Yes
Jake Pearson	Absent
John Caldwell	Yes
Tommy Lewis	Yes

4. Approval of Two Rental Agreements for Copy Machines for Sheriff's Department (State Contract)

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor Tommy Lewis seconded the motion to approve the rental agreement for 2 copy machines for the Sheriff's Department on State Contract. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Jessie Medlin	Yes
Eugene Thach	Yes
Jake Pearson	Absent
John Caldwell	Yes
Tommy Lewis	Yes

See Exhibit E.4.

Item E., Continued,

5. Approval of the FY97 Inventory Report

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion to approve the FY97 Inventory Report as presented by the Inventory Clerk, Bonnie Gatlin, and as set out in accordance with Section 31-7-107 of the Mississippi Code, which states that the inventory control clerk, pursuant to regulations promulgated by the State Auditor, shall perform physical inventories of assets of the county on or before October 1 of each year and shall file with the Board of Supervisors, in triplicate, a written report of such inventory. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Jessie Medlin	Yes
Eugene Thach	Yes
Jake Pearson	Absent
John Caldwell	Yes
Tommy Lewis	Yes

See Exhibit E.5.

6. Approval to Advertise for Float Sand Finish Ceiling in Women's Tank in Sheriff's Dept.

In accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 31-7-13 of the Mississippi Code, County Administrator, Clovis Reed, explained the process to install the float sand finish ceiling in the women's tank at the Sheriff's Department that is under construction. Mr. Reed notified the Board of Supervisors that Buildings and Grounds who are doing the work on this project, do not have equipment necessary to install the float sand finish ceiling.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin asked where the money for this project will come from. County Administrator, Clovis Reed, said the money will come through the Capital Improvements portion of the Operations and Maintenance Budget and further explained that the costs of this project have not been determined, but they will likely be in excess of \$5,000, therefore, creating the necessity to advertise for bids for the project.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis made the motion and Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion to advertise for installation of a float sand finish ceiling in the women's tank in the Sheriff's Department. The motion passed as follows:

Jessie Medlin	Yes
Eugene Thach	Yes
Jake Pearson	Absent
John Caldwell	Yes
Tommy Lewis	Yes

Item E., Continued,

7. Authorization for Board President to Execute "Request for Cash" for

**Nesbit Water Project Job and Approve Draw Request for Edward T.
Davis & Associates When Funds are Transferred as Approved By
Glen Brown**

Supervisor Tommy Lewis made the motion and Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion to authorize the Board President to execute documents in connection with the request for cash for the Nesbit Water Project Job. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Jessie Medlin	Yes
Eugene Thach	Yes
Jake Pearson	Absent
John Caldwell	Yes
Tommy Lewis	Yes

See Exhibit E.7.

**8. Authorize Board President to Execute Lease Agreement in Connection
with Backhoe Bid #96-156-016**

In accordance with the guidelines set forth in Section 31-7-13 of the Mississippi Code, Subsection 8817 (e), Supervisor Tommy Lewis made the motion and Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion to authorize the Board President to execute the lease purchase agreement in connection with the backhoe with Contractors Equipment Company, who were the low bidders on Bid File #96-156-016, which was accepted by the Board of Supervisors at the Board meeting on July 21, 1997. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Jessie Medlin	Yes
Eugene Thach	Yes
Jake Pearson	Absent
John Caldwell	Yes
Tommy Lewis	Yes

See Exhibit E.8.

9. Review 1998 Legislative Requests

County Administrator, Clovis Reed, explained that the 1998 list of legislative requests is available and being presented for the Board's review in anticipation of their yearly meeting with the State Legislators in December. The Board of Supervisors discussed several of the items listed on the Wishlist. Supervisor John Caldwell noted that Item #9 deals with the Board of Supervisors being responsible to inspect all county roads each year and said the Board has no authority on many of the roads which are incorporated by the city, yet, by Statute the Board of Supervisors is responsible for their inspection.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin requested the County Administrator to add an item to the Wishlist concerning sewers and sewer systems to help alleviate some of the funding problems for these projects and mentioned as possibilities as Impact fees or Tap fees.

Item E.9., Continued,

Supervisor John Caldwell asked the County Administrator, Clovis Reed, to set a date by Monday to meet with the State Legislators.

The Board of Supervisors discussed several other items in connection with the Legislative Wishlist. Supervisor Eugene Thach asked to add an item number dealing with the employees being able to utilize profits from concessions within county buildings for such benefits as sending flowers to employees in the event of a death in the immediate family and other such items. County Administrator, Clovis Reed, suggested adding an item allowing the county to provide coffee for meetings in which county business is done. The Board of Supervisors suggested adding lunacies and business concerning same to the Wishlist. The Board of Supervisors upon review of their calendar requested the County Administrator to schedule the Legislative meeting on December 11th at 9:00am.

F. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Executive Session minutes are included under separate cover for November 20, 1997.

G. OTHER ISSUES

1. Administration Building

Don Clark presented resolutions in connection with the Administration Building which sets the terms and conditions of the \$7 million Bonds for that project. The second resolution in connection with this matter sets the sale date at December 11, 1997, at 11:00 a.m. for the sale of these Bonds. Mr. Clark told the Board of Supervisors that because these Bonds were less than \$10 million they were bank eligible. Because of that reason, the Bonds will have to be closed by year end.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion to approve the Bond resolution setting the terms and conditions of the Bonds for the Administration Building. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Jessie Medlin	Yes
Eugene Thach	Yes
Jake Pearson	Absent
John Caldwell	Yes
Tommy Lewis	Yes

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion to approve the resolution approving the official statement authorizing the firms associated with Don Clark and Demery Grubbs to fill out the proposals in connection with the sale of Bonds for the Administration Building. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Jessie Medlin	Yes
Eugene Thach	Yes
Jake Pearson	Absent
John Caldwell	Yes
Tommy Lewis	Yes

Item G., Continued,

2. Ambulance Service

Supervisor Eugene Thach updated the Board of Supervisors on the previous meetings with the Cities regarding ambulance service throughout DeSoto County.

Supervisor Thach told the Board that the cities want to raise rates 15% and operate their services independently. County Administrator, Clovis Reed, and

Supervisor Eugene Thach explained that the cities would still want to collect 1/2 mill from Ambulance Service Distribution to the cities. Mr. Reed said the county would have to make up to \$180,000 per year and told the Board of Supervisors that the cities would like to keep the ambulances's that have been provided to them by the county. Therefore, there would have to be a schedule worked out to identify the value of these ambulances so the city could work out an arrangement to pay the county for same.

Mr. Reed said that the City of Hernando wants to be paid for county runs, but would give up the 1/3 uncollectible to achieve this billing. The Board of Supervisors discussed ambulance service and financing in detail. Supervisor John Caldwell clarified that the county is not paying millage to the cities. Supervisor Eugene Thach said the current system is not working.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin suggested the county look into getting some of the newer ambulances that the cities own for county use. Supervisor Medlin discussed the effect of any new ambulance arrangement on the paid EMS Director's job. Supervisor Tommy Lewis said that the EMS Director does not manage the cities ambulance services now, therefore, the change may be minimal to his scope of services.

County Administrator, Clovis Reed said that all parties agreed there should be a managing agent to assure there in adequate training and maintenance in all county ambulance services.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis asked what is fair for the ambulance arrangement. County Administrator, Clovis Reed, responded that he is concerned about the increase pay for the city to run into the county and said that administrating that billing could be a challenge. Mr. Reed said in his opinion, the best arrangement for handling ambulance service was to let a professional health care provider manage the service. However, because the Board did not support that idea and because Baptist Hospital was no longer interested in discussing this arrangement, another option would have to be obtained. Mr. Reed said that it is clear that the current structure is not working and the only options left are to split the service up or to pool it. Supervisor Tommy Lewis said that perhaps when the current arrangement was adopted it was the best arrangement for the county at that time, but that things have changed in the county. Supervisor Lewis said whatever arrangement was decided he would not vote to reduce ambulance service.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin said it is a mistake to allow cities to pick and choose the spots of the county in which they want to annex.

County Administrator, Clovis Reed, said that Mayor Gale may be receptive to the City of Hernando getting out of the ambulance business all together and the county taking over ambulance service for that entire area.

The Board of Supervisors discussed ambulance services at length.

County Administrator, Clovis Reed, said that he and Board Attorney, William Austin,

Item G., Continued,

need to spend some time on the ambulance issue including paying the City of Hernando for runs outside the city limits.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin asked what kind of research has been done to find how other counties handle their ambulance services. County Administrator, Clovis Reed, said that at the onset of this discussion his office had polled 50 counties in the state of Mississippi and found that about 37 of these counties privatized their service to handle the same issues facing DeSoto County.

3. Upcoming Events

The Board of Supervisors discussed upcoming events and noted that the Board would schedule Board Meetings on December 1st, 3rd, and 11th.

The Justice Court Open House is scheduled for December 15th.

The Bond Sale for the Administration is set for December 11th at 11:00am.

The Board will attempt to meet with the State Legislators on December 11th at 9:00am.

The DeSoto Extension Service Luncheon is scheduled for December 1st.

Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to recess until November 24, 1997, at 9:00am. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Jessie Medlin	Yes
Eugene Thach	Yes
Jake Pearson	Absent
John Caldwell	Yes
Tommy Lewis	Yes

THIS the 20th day of November, 1997, these minutes have been read and approved by the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors.

JOHN M. M. CALDWELL, President
DeSoto County Board of Supervisors